## **BHEW Bulletin**

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## Marijuana Consumption by Missouri Students



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Behavioral Health

Epidemiology

Workgroup

Marijuana is a commonly used illicit drug among adults and youth. Missouri 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade students were asked if they had ever, even once, used marijuana and 15.3% of students reported lifetime use<sup>1</sup>. When asked if they had used it in the past 30 days, 7.0% reported using marijuana.

Marijuana can be used several different ways. The most common and fastest method of using Marijuana is inhalation either by smoking or vaporizing<sup>2</sup>. It can also be ingested by mixing it in food. Oral ingestion results in stronger and longer lasting effects that are slower to begin. Marijuana can also be applied to the skin, but this method is less potent and more common among older users<sup>2</sup>.

Resins that are high in THC can be extracted from the marijuana plant and then smoked or eaten in place of the plant itself<sup>2</sup>. Smoking these resins is a practice called dabbing and the extracts can take various forms. Some common examples are wax, which is a soft solid, and hash oil, which is a thick liquid.

Missouri students who reported marijuana use in their lifetime were asked how they used it<sup>1</sup>. Students could report more than one method of consumption. The most common method reported by Missouri students was to smoke it by burning the plant in something like a joint or a pipe and inhaling the smoke. The second most common method reported was to smoke it using vapes or water pipes.

|   | % of Students Endorsed <sup>1</sup> |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Smoke it (blunt, pipe, joint, etc)        | 44.6%                               |
| Smoke it (vape, bong, water pipe, hookah) | 29.9%                               |
| Dabbing/Wax/Hash Oil                      | 16.1%                               |
| Eat it (edibles)                          | 15.5%                               |
| Other                                     | 3%                                  |

While most students who had used marijuana in their lifetime report smoking, it is important to know that students do have access to, and are using other methods of consumption as well.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Missouri Student Survey

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/marijuana